

ELLIOTT, HENRY

DRAWING 21a

SCULPTORS—E


W. 2009. 085. 08804

Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Henry Jackson Ellicott

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2012 with funding from
State of Indiana through the Indiana State Library

<http://archive.org/details/statuesofabrahaelinc>



Statue now in Capitol.
(June '67)
Dr. Lillieott.

Bot of.

En. An. Wash. Feb. 1878

Statue of Pres. N. Lincoln
By Ballicott



An old photograph in the Brady Collection taken in the Rotunda of the Capitol and showing a statue of Lincoln and a casket, supposedly containing the body of Lincoln, with soldiers in Zouave uniform on guard, has long been a puzzle to Lincoln students. The features of Lincoln are clearly distinguishable in the full-length statue, ~~and~~ either in plaster or marble. On the base of the statue is inscribed "Harry J. Ellicott. Artist." No further information is known concerning the statue and no one knows what finally happened to it.

The plain coffin in the photograph does not answer the description of the elaborately decorated one in which the remains of Lincoln were placed. Furthermore, since Lincoln was nearly six feet four inches in height, a much longer coffin than that shown in the photograph would have been required for his body. The following description of Lincoln's coffin is taken from the New York Herald, New York, Thursday, April 20, 1865: "Near the center of the room (East Room of the White House) stood the grand catafalque, upon which rested the mortal remains of the illustrious dead, enclosed in a metallic coffin, finished in the most elaborate style, with four silver handles on each side, stars glistening between each handle, and a vein of silver winding around the whole case in serpentine form. To the edge of the lid hung a rich silver tassel, making a chaste and elaborate fringe to the whole case."

An article which appeared in "The Evening Star, Washington, D. C., August 13, 1868, solves the mystery of the body in the coffin. It contains the remains of Thaddeus Stevens rather than those of Lincoln. This article reads as follows: "The remains of Mr. Stevens laid in the parlor of his late residence, on south B Street, Capitol Hill, until noon today, when they were removed to the rotunda of the Capitol.... The body was placed in the coffin about half-past ten o'clock this forenoon, and all things prepared for its removal to the rotunda. The coffin is of rosewood, covered with fine black cloth, and lined with white satin. Upon the lid is a large silver plate, bearing the following inscription: -"Thaddeus Stevens. Born April 4th, 1792. Died August 11th, 1868, at midnight-". The plate is in the form of a shield, handsomely chased, and around it is a row of silver tacks. Upon each side are three heavy silver handles, the hinge portion being the National coat of arms, and an eagle emblazoned on the handle. The coffin is heavily trimmed with silver, and upon the lid rests a beautiful chain of white roses and immortelles, linked together with a white ribbon, placed there by the Sister Loretta, of Providence Hospital.... The body will lay in state in the rotunda until tomorrow, and the rotunda will be open during all of to-night that visitors may pay their last said tribute of respect to the illustrious dead. The catafalque is the same that the remains of the late President Lincoln rested upon, but was covered with new cloth this morning, as the old cloth was destroyed by the recent explosion at the Capitol. The catafalque is erected immediately in front of Ellicott's statue of Lincoln in the rotunda. The Butler Zouaves, Major Charles B. Fisher commanding, will have charge of the body as a guard of honor, 25 men being on duty in the rotunda, and to be relieved every four hours. An extra force of the Capitol police will also be on duty while the remains lay in state.... The funeral services will be held in the rotunda between half-past ten and twelve o'clock tomorrow, and be conducted by Rev. Dr. Gray, of the E-street Baptist Church;... During the morning a number of his immediate friends assembled in his parlors to accompany the remains to the rotunda of the

Capitol, and about five minutes to twelve Company A, Butler Zouaves (colored), arrived at the residence."

The catafalque upon which the remains of President Lincoln and Thaddeus Stevens rested was also used for funerals of several other distinguished men in the Rotunda of the Capitol. The following is taken from "The Evening Star, Thursday, December 30, 1886: "...The bier upon which the mortal remains of Senator Logan now rest is identically the same that was used to expose the remains of President Lincoln to the public view. The bier above, the structure, exclusive of the covering, has held the remains of other distinguished men. It was used for President Garfield (Sep't. 21, 1881), for Chief Justice Chase (May 11, 1873), for Senator Sumner (March 14, 1874), and for Representative Thaddeus Stevens (August 14, 1868). For each of these distinguished Americans, a different covering was used, but Architect Clark deemed this a most fitting occasion to employ the drapery that covered President Lincoln's funeral couch...."

Stanley W. McClure
Stanley W. McClure
Historical Technician,
National Capital Parks
Dep't. of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

511 10th St., N. W.,
The Lincoln Museum,
Washington, D. C.
October 25, 1946

Dear Dr. Warren:

On your visit to the Lincoln Museum on February 12, 1944, you spoke to me concerning the statue of Lincoln and the casket, thought to be that of Lincoln, which is shown in the photograph made in the Rotunda of the Capitol. This photograph was probably taken by M. Brady, or of his associates, since it is among the photographs in the Brady collection of the Photographic Division of the National Archives. As you know S. Lorant used this photograph in his "Lincoln--his Life in Photographs." I have also read your article on "Ellicott" in your recent issue of Lincoln Lore, no. 899, July 1, 1946.

Two or three weeks ago, we received a call from the Interior Archives asking for information on this statue. I have been working over in the Interior Archives and Miss Jorgenson, the lady in charge, showed me a letter from R. Lauriston Bullard requesting this information. She was convinced that it was not the coffin of Lincoln and so stated in her reply to Bullard. She was unable, however, to shed further light on the statue or photograph.

In an effort to find further information on the subject, I compared the coffin in this photograph with photographs and sketches of Lincoln's coffin and with the description of the latter in the New York Herald, April 20, 1865, and it became evident that it was not Lincoln's coffin shown in the photograph. I consulted several books on the Capitol and found the reference describing the funeral of Thaddeus Stevens, whose body lay in state in the Rotunda of the Capitol on Aug. 13, 1868, in "The National Capitol--Its Architecture, Art and History", by George C. Hazelton, Jr., New York, J. F. Taylor & Co., 1911, page 126. In this description Hazelton quoted from the article from the Washington Evening Star, excerpts from which I am enclosing on a separate sheet. In addition to the latter I have checked the laws passed by Congress from 1865-1868 in the hope of finding that Congress had purchased the statue from Ellicott but found nothing. I have also started to go through three Washington papers day by day in that period to find some mention of the statue being placed in the Capitol. David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol, knows nothing of the statue, except that Chas. E. Fairman in writing his work on the "Art and Sculpture in the Capitol," was puzzled by the photograph and they decided that the photograph was a fake.

Yesterday I was down to the Smithsonian Institution and asked Mr. Tolman, Chief of the Fine Arts Div. about it. I told him I had found that it was the casket of Steven's in the Rotunda. We knew nothing about it himself, however. I thought perhaps it might have been transferred from the Capitol to the Smithsonian sometime before 1900. Bert Sheldon came in to the museum late in the day and told me he had gotten the information I had given Mr. Tolman. It appears Sheldon had been trying also to find out something about the statue for Bullard and had consulted Tolman among others. Tolman did not tell me that anyone had inquired of him concerning the photograph, but apparently had called Sheldon and given him the information before I had had time to make further studies concerning the Ellicott statue. I did not intend to write you until I had exhausted all possible research on the statue, but decided I would send you this part of it before Sheldon sent it on to Bullard or others.

The re-arrangement of the exhibits of the Lincoln Museum, begun on June 15, 1943, was finally completed on October 4, 1946. Everything was changed by April 14, 1944, but the first 5 cases lacked the necessary articles required for the chronological arrangement in telling the story of the life of Lincoln. While the Museum Preparator, Rudolf Bauss, was working on his diorama, I collected several hundred needed articles and photographs and rewrote all the labels for those cases. With the diorama and other things coming up, he was unable until August to re-mat the 5 cases with the new material. Every label, as far as is known, has been corrected, and a new case on the city of Washington 1861-1865, the Civil War Forts around Washington, and Early's Raid on Washington, has been added. I am now busy doing research on the furnishings of the White House from the records in the Archives, vouchers in the Gen. Accounting Office, etc., in order to improve the inventory and begin a catalog of White House furnishings. It has never been done before and is quite a research job, as you could guess.

I trust that the information on the photograph of the Rotunda will be of benefit to you. If I find any information on the Ellicott statue, which seems a little doubtful, I will pass it on immediately to you. You can use the information I have given you in any way you see fit.

I hope you will excuse this poor typing. I am doing it at home on my old Oliver typewriter and it isn't so good.

Sincerely yours,

Stanley W. McClure.
Stanley W. McClure,
Historical Technician.

P. S. If you do not wish to use this material for "Lincoln Lore" or any other publication, perhaps Drs. McClelland and Kincaid would like to use it in the "Lincoln Herald." You have first priority to it if it has any value to you. I am sending an extra copy to you which you could send to them if you so desire, and only after you have made use of it yourself.

November 6, 1946

Mr. Stanley McClure
511-10th Street, North West
The Lincoln Museum
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. McClure:

Thanks very much for your interesting information about the Ellicott statue and I am in hearty agreement with your conclusion.

It appeared to me when I wrote the article about the statue that there was something strange about the coffin and I am not su sure now but what the whole coffin is drawn in as it does not seem to be of photographic origin, being much too small, it would appear to me, for any man even Stevens.

I wish we were able to use the copy of Lincoln Lore but inasmuch as we have never accepted article I feel it would have a tendency to break a precedent which we would not wish to establish.

At your suggestion, I am sending it on to Gerald to see what he has to do with it as I think it is worth publishing and I think you have written a very fine story.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 899

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

July 1, 1946

EARLIEST SCULPTORS OF THE PRESIDENT

The fact that Leonard Volk's life mask of Lincoln and his subsequent studies ranging from an idealized head to a heroic size bronze statue, have been given so much attention that some of the other early attempts to portray the President in sculpture have been practically ignored. There are three early efforts which seem to be worthy of some attention.

JONES

Thomas S. Jones was born in Oneida County, New York on December 12, 1811. In 1841 he moved to Cincinnati and became a marble cutter. Without further training he began to make pieces of sculpture, making busts of such famous men as Taylor, Scott, Clay Webster, Brackenridge, and Lincoln. He is credited with 6 statues, 30 groups, 34 busts and 10 medallions. He died in Columbus on February 28, 1881. The best story of his Lincoln bust is found in the New York Tribune for April 9, 1865:

"At this time when the name of Lincoln is on every tongue, and his memory in every heart, anything that recalls vividly to the eye the features of the honored martyr is peculiarly welcome, and will be gazed upon by thousands with mournful interest. The bust executed by T. D. Jones of Cincinnati was commenced about six weeks before Mr. Lincoln left Springfield, enroute to occupy the presidential chair. The last sitting was given only two days before his departure. As a work of art it has high merit—as a portrait it is truly a fac-simile. It is bold and grand in outline; it is modelled with exquisite skill; its expression is faithful to the life, and it is characteristic in its whole contour and in every line of its elaborate manipulation. It is but very rarely that so successful a portraiture is achieved in plaster, but in this we recognize positive individuality of, as well as the closest resemblance to the subject. The simple dignity of the unpretentious man, the native nobility which never failed in any emergency, have in this bust, been caught and perpetuated for the admiration and respect of posterity. It will undoubtedly be received as the historic bust of Abraham Lincoln not only because it is so perfect in all points of intellectual and physical resemblance, but because it is the only one for which President Lincoln ever sat. For some reason or other, this fine and very important work of art seemed destined to remain in obscurity, and but for the intervention of Mr. Henri L. Stuart, of this city, it would probably have remained unknown until now. He recognized its merit, ordered some casts to be made, out of which but three or four have as yet crossed the Allegheny mountains. One was sent to Mrs. Lincoln, and has since formed a prominent object of attraction in the red reception room at the White House, Washington. Another has been in our editorial rooms for some time, and will be exhibited to-day in front of The Tribune publication office. A third will be shown to-day at the store of A. D. Porter & Co. No. 542 Broadway. These busts will assuredly attract much attention from the striking points of excellence which we have enumerated. Mr. T. D. Jones is at present engaged, we understand, upon a full length life-size statue of President Lincoln, for which he made careful and elaborate studies while engaged on the bust."

ELLICOTT

When photographs were made of Abraham Lincoln's funeral decorations in the Capitol at Washington, there stood at the head of the casket what appeared to be a marble statue of him. Pictures available give a very good likeness of the statue but no one seemed to be able to identify it or tell what became of it. This study would appear to be the earliest full-length statue of Lincoln, but whether it was in plaster or marble we have been unable to ascertain.

Some time ago the Lincoln National Life Foundation came in possession of a carte-de-visite photograph of the statue taken by "Rice, Union Photograph Gallery, 520 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D. C.," and written in ink on the back of the card is the notation, "Statue of President Lincoln by Ellicott." On the front of the card and under the picture in the same handwriting is the line "Statue now in Capitol (June '67) by Ellicott."

Henry Jackson Ellicott was born in Ann Arundel County, Maryland on June 27, 1846. After studying drawing at the National Academy of Design his education in sculpture was supervised by Brumede, Powell and Lintze. He passed away in Washington on February 11, 1901. For the Capitol at Washington he did the busts of Vice Presidents, George M. Dallers and Millard Fillmore. He also modeled two statues at Philadelphia and an equestrian statue of General McClellan and also a statue of General Meade in Fairmont Park.

MEZZARA

For many years Lott Flannery's statue of Abraham Lincoln was thought to be the earliest full length study of the President. It stood on a pedestal twenty-three feet high in front of the District of Columbia Court House at Washington. Later it was removed but public sentiment cultivated somewhat by the claim that it was the earliest statue of Lincoln had it replaced on a stone base more in keeping with the surroundings.

But the Flannery statue was not even the first statue in Washington as it is evident that the Ellicott statue preceded it by three years. The honor of the erecting of the first Heroic Bronze Statue goes to San Francisco and this is quite appropriately so. The last word spoken by Lincoln to any of his associates as he left the White House for Ford's Theatre was "San Francisco." He addressed Colfax from his carriage and said, "I'll telegraph you at San Francisco."

The stationery of the Lincoln Monument League carries this information about the statue, "Designed by a California artist. Erected in San Francisco by San Franciscan Loyalty. Unveiled on the First Anniversary of President Lincoln's death. Destroyed by the Great Fire in 1906. To be replaced by this League."

It is fortunate that a portrait of the statue has been discovered not only for the preservation of the figure of Lincoln in the first bronze study but also for the inscription which appeared on the base. While the inauguration date is apparently confused with the election date the wording of the sketch is of interest: Abraham Lincoln/ Born Feb. 12, 1809/Elected President of the United States/ March 1861/Re-elected March 1865/Died April 1865/

The Boston Transcript for August 29, 1865 contains the following news item relating to the sculptor and statue: "STATUE OF MR. LINCOLN. A California sculptor named Mezzara has nearly completed a colossal statue of President Lincoln. It is nine feet high, and stands on a pedestal ten feet in height, making a total of nineteen feet. The posture is described in a San Francisco paper as majestic and commanding; the left arm extended in front, and the hand grasping a scroll, supposed to be the Emancipation Proclamation. The right arm hangs at the side, thrown slightly back, as if the subject was speaking. Under the right foot writhes a serpent, and close by it is a broken shackle. An allegorical stump of a tree from which grow two clasped hands, stands just behind and to the right of the figure."

A news dispatch in a much later paper makes this comment: "A French bronze statue of Lincoln weighing 12,000 pounds has been erected in front of the Lincoln school house in San Francisco. It was executed by the late P. Mezzara, a native Californian sculptor."

Dear Doctor R G McMurtry, Executive Director. (1)
This is a more-or-less summary of what I've
done to attempt to locate the "Lost Lincoln
Statue", by HJ Telford.

(A) There are 3 newspaper stories which indicate
- if they are accurate in their theory or allegation -
that the Bean statue was chosen from among
20 competing other sculptors. (1) "The Post" (DC)
2-11-34 == The "STAR" (DC) 15 Jan 1900 and
== "Baltimore American" ^{14 Jan 1900} Each and all claim
(for example) "Her Great Success abroad was" --
'was awarded over 20 Competitors' and "Model
chosen -- (by Bean) -- by the Judges over the
work of many well known sculptors."

However! I was always under the impression
that this fair haired young woman ^{who} was the
foul protégé of about 5 or 6 Senators was
merely awarded - from scratch, out of the whole
cloth -- the Commission. You know the story!

How Lincoln said "well, being poor was nothing against her" and He gave his permission that she model him from life.

The 3 newspaper stories seem - I think - to contradict this presumption, Perhaps not too effectively?

The laws (I may not have found them all) are March 3 1869 found in vol 15 page 292 and of Dec 98 July 28 1866 Vol 14 p 310. ^{THQ} I have not yet read these statutes; I shall do so soon.

Doctor Powell tells me they have the v Ream "papers" (correspondence & etc). They are not indexed, nor are they alphabetized. They are for the most part in folders and there is one folder entitled "Lincoln statue". Saturdays is about the only time I ever have for this sort of thing since my wife had those bad heart attacks. So I shall go as soon as I can to the L & C MSS Div.

I have had access also to another III
Clipping (Dec 16 1900 - "Star" DC)

an art writer John Coyle states that all
the ~~husled~~ residue or undisposed of
art and statuary of Ellicott was sent to
"Newport" (See York, why Newport?) Ellicott
was born in Ellicott City Md.

So:
I wrote both the Newport (RD) Historical and
their art gallery re this. I am when I get an
answer I'll send you a copy. I took a chance
that the Newport statement is in error and wrote
Mr. His Soc too re the disposal of H & E's
art stuff.

SPRAN GEI

The article by Coyle was Dec 1906, yet Ellicott died
2-11-1901, why the disposal? in 1900.

14

I Hope to on Sat to visit the US
District ^{court} in + For Distg Ctr; and read
Whitcomb's will; and from there to MSS Dew Lib Comp.

Yesterday I talked with ^{THE} Corcoran Art Gallery
Curator - I can't recall his name - She said
they have a lot of old press clippings (in
big brown envelopes stashed away in the
basement) and she would take a look
and ascertain if there may be an envelope
on HGE; and she thought there might be!
She said she'd call me if. (I hope I hope)

I still have not looked into "Yankee Stone Cutters"
by Albert T Gardner nor have I as yet
looked into Bullard's slatuary columns, I've
tried but haven't been able to get my hands on it.
(Either it's "out"; or the library I happen to be in
doesn't have it; Dammit!)

11

If the Newport people have this "lost" statue
it will be in some obscure & forgotten ^{basement}
nook. I betcha!

Did I tell you about the time Francis Robinson
at Detroit art gallery took me to the
Sub Basement, unlocked ^{the} door and beneath
clouds of thick dust and much-much burlap
He showed me a magnificent Borglum Lincoln
head (replica of ^{the} Capitol Rotunda in DC and
Springfield Town "Borglum Heads") when I came
home I wrote an Emphatic & vigorous
Complaint to the Executive Director of the art
gallery about this. When I was in Detroit in
Oct it was on a nice pedestal out on
the front lawn (That neighborhood is such that
I'm concerned about the next Midson Halloween,
the neighborhood used to be much different when
I resided in Detroit, back in 1920-21, I hope
nothing has happened to it)

I may not find this HGE statue of SC. But
 one thing's for sure, Either I do, or it ain't;
 And I'm keeping Your Establishment
 informed just in case this question should
 ever come up again; and so all this
 effort will not be needlessly done again
 by somebody else.

I'm thinking also of ^{couple} "Letters to the Editor"
 including DC + Chicago papers. Maybe I
 shall; I haven't made up my mind yet,
 and I'll-His-Your, too. Maybe Yes, Maybe No!

This is fun, pursuing this inquiry. ^{THO} It's not so
 terribly important. I know of ~~3~~ 3 other ~~plaster~~
 statues (2 plaster, I don't know what the third was
 made of) that were disposed of by breakage. Actually
 statues don't interest me that much, they are not
 that important, what difference do they make?
 over over



This venture was wished on me by accident. I
agreed to make a talk in the fall (63) on "Little
Known + interesting History of Washington DC"
and (A) the chairman Bruce Higgins (at Capital
Methodist) recommended I include ^{part of} a talk he
heard me give in Masonic Lodge about
Lincoln statuary and (B) when E. E. Gosh Keeling,
(Library of Congress) heard of my proposed
talk he urged me to include the "Lost
AC statue" He meant Fannery, Gee Gosh.
as far as I'm concerned Fannery was
never really lost whereas Ellicott sure as
hell is! As ever; -19 March 63

Bert Sheldon
302 Chesterfield Apt
3315 Wisconsin Avenue NW
Washington 16 DC

V. L. ELLICOTT, M. D.
22 BUCHANAN ROAD
BALTIMORE 12, MARYLAND

March 29, 1963

Dear Mr. Sheldon

Your letter of March 20 about the Loki Leucola Statue is most interesting and I shall carefully keep it with my other papers on the Ellicott Family. In looking through these I found a note saying that I had received a phone call from you in Nov. 1, 1947, when I was living in Bethesda, stating that a "Dr. Ballard of Boston" wanted information for a book he was writing. I am afraid I was not able to give you any help.

I suppose you know that Henry J. Ellicott is listed in the book, FAMILY HISTORY FOX, ELLICOTT, EVANS published by Baker, Jones & Co of Buffalo in 1882. It does not list any descendants of him.

If I can pick up any information about this statue from my brother here in Baltimore or from any other source, Mr. Sheldon, I will write you right away; but I am afraid there is not much hope.

Sincerely yours
V. L. Ellicott



ELLIOTT, HENRY

DRAWING 21a

SCULPTURES—E

